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Comparative Measurements of Skulls.—At the meeting of the Anthropological Section of the Academy, held October 8, 1897, DR. HARRISON ALLEN presented a number of Hawaiian skulls, placed in his hands by Dr. Whitney, who had enjoyed exceptional opportunities for their collection. It had been found, he said, that the Hawaiian people of high caste selected different burial places from those of low caste, the former choosing caves as places of sepulture, the latter interring their dead on the sea coast. This custom renders it easy to divide the skulls into two classes, whose distinction is also indicated in their characteristics. He had found, on comparison of these classes of skulls, that they presented well-marked distinctions, not due to any difference of race, but simply to different habits and conditions. The skulls of high caste origin were found to have characters due, in his opinion, to higher intelligence and more luxurious habits of living than those belonging to the lower caste, all the differences observed being probably referable to these causes.

In comparing these characters he adopted a special method, constituting a modification of the ordinary method. Instead of indicating variations by curves, he arranged the numbers representing the measurements of significant features in the series of skulls, in steps, or terraces, each step indicating by its width the degree of preponderance of its corresponding number. Omissions in the series of numbers were likewise indicated. He considered this method superior to that of curves, as greatly simplifying the comparisons of a series of numbers, and enabling conclusions to be readily and quickly drawn.

This communication possesses a special value in its being the last made by Dr. Allen, whose death took place shortly after its delivery.

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